

Huntington's smashing success. "This designation speaks to the commitment of a community which works together for the betterment of all its residents," he said. "The partnership between Huntington Township Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Huntington's government sets an example for the region."

I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in honoring this historic achievement, and in congratulating all the members of the Huntington community for the inspirational example they have provided for cities, towns and villages throughout New York State and our entire nation.

#### HONORING THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA IN THEIR HEEDING THE PRESIDENT'S CALL FOR AFGHAN YOUTH RELIEF

##### HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2002

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to honor the Boy Scouts of America who answered the call of the President to raise funds for the Afghan Youth Relief Fund in light of events following September 11th. This extraordinary opportunity allowed Boy Scouts throughout the nation to aid in a national cause.

In my district, the 470 Scouts of Three Rivers responded to the President at our Veterans' Day celebration of 2001. It was at this celebration that they were able to raise over 1,000 dollars! Today Brandon Johnson from Council 578 of Beaumont, Texas is representing Three Rivers at both the White House and the Red Cross.

The Boy Scouts of America's response shows that young people are answering the challenges proposed to them by their leaders during this time of great need. It is great to see that they are taking the initiative to lead at this critical time in American history.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE GENE SULLIVAN

##### HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2002

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, Gene Sullivan, a gifted basketball coach and thoughtful social steward passed away February 21st in Chicago at the age of 70. He will certainly be known for his coaching accomplishments. As the coach of Loyola University Chicago's basketball team during the 1980's, he led the Ramblers back to the NCAA tournament after a 20-year absence in 1984-1985. The Ramblers won twice before losing to the national champion Georgetown Hoyas in the Sweet 16 that year. Coach Sullivan was rightly named the Midwestern Collegiate Conference Coach of the Year in 1983 and 1985, and retired with a 149-114 record.

Fortunately, Gene Sullivan extended his reach beyond his tremendous college basketball career. He cared about people and communities. Gene motivated thousands of stu-

dent athletes by urging them to make responsible life decisions. More than 5,000 coaches and 55,000 athletes have taken his "Stay" pledge to remain committed to school and keep a positive outlook.

After his retirement from coaching, Gene served as Deputy Chief of the Chicago Park District. He used his tremendous abilities and celebrity to greatly boost youth sports. During his tenure with the park district, Deputy Chief Sullivan repaired 140 city basketball courts and attracted thousands of Chicago youngsters to summer baseball leagues.

Thankfully, Coach Sullivan's legacy will be remembered for many years to come. Tomorrow, the first annual Sullivan Awards Night for Coaches will take place at Hawthorne Race Course in my Congressional District. At the ceremony, seven Chicagoland coaches will be honored for their great work. Among them, Robert W. Foster of Leo High School will be honored with the Sullivan Award For Lifetime Achievement. Patricia Nolan Ryan, principal of Queen of Peace High School in Burbank, will be honored for her tremendous dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I knew Gene Sullivan, and he was truly a great human being and a very good basketball coach. I salute all the participants and would like to submit Chicago Sun-Times columnist Steve Neal's story on this event for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Chicago Sun-Times, June 19, 2002]

#### AWARDS HONOR COACH'S LEGACY

(By Steve Neal)

Gene Sullivan, who died much too soon, should be long remembered as a great basketball coach and very good man.

On Thursday night, legions of his friends are gathering to celebrate his legacy. Bears Coach Dick Jauron and State's Attorney Richard Devine, who played high school basketball for Sullivan, are among those scheduled to speak.

The first annual Sullivan Awards Night for Coaches will start at 6 p.m. in the Turf Room at Hawthorne Race Course.

Sullivan, who devoted his life to basketball, never lost his love of the game or his determination to help others. For the last four years, he enlisted coaches throughout the Chicago area in his crusade against drugs, gang activity, gun possession and hateful remarks. The Stay program, which Sullivan kept alive, urged students and athletes to stay in school, stay involved, stay out of gangs and stay positive.

"We coaches tend to get too wrapped up in our own little world of wins and losses while the outside world is falling apart," Sullivan told Sun-Times columnist Raymond Coffey in 1998. "It's time for coaches to stand up and be counted on these issues of keeping kids out of trouble."

Under Sullivan's direction and the sponsorship of the state's attorney's office, this program has been a huge success. More than 5,000 coaches and 55,000 athletes representing 185 high schools in Cook County have taken the Stay pledge and have participated in camps, clinics and tournaments.

By launching the Sullivan awards as a new tradition, the Stay program seeks to extend Sullivan's legacy.

The coach had an extraordinary run. He played basketball for Notre Dame and later served as first assistant coach for the Irish. As a prep coach, he won championships for Loyola Academy.

In the 1980s, he coached Loyola University's basketball team and brought the Ramblers back to national prominence. In 1985, his team won two NCAA tournament victories and made it to the Sweet 16 before losing to No. 1 Georgetown.

The hardworking and dedicated Sullivan also did a stint as DePaul University's athletic director.

In the early 1990s, he served as deputy chief of the Chicago Park District. He developed citywide summer baseball programs that attracted thousands of youngsters. Sullivan also took the lead in rehabbing 140 basketball courts in city parks. He brought college football back to Soldier Field for the first time since the 1940s. Taking advantage of his contacts, Sullivan booked Notre Dame, Northwestern and Illinois for Soldier Field.

On Thursday night, Leo High School's president and veteran football coach Robert W. Foster will be honored with the Sullivan award for lifetime achievement. Foster, who is already in the Chicago Catholic League and Illinois Coaches Hall of Fame, shares Sullivan's determination to help others.

Patricia Nolan Ryan, principal of Queen of Peace High School in Burbank, is being honored with the Father John Smyth Award for dedication.

George Pruitt, athletic director at Robeson High School, is getting the Bill "Moose" Skowron Award for fortitude.

Dorothy Gaters of Marshall High School, the most successful girl's basketball coach in local history, is receiving the Willye White award for commitment. White is a former five-time Olympian.

Frank Lentini, whose Mount Carmel football teams have won four state titles in the last six years, is getting the Johnny Lattner Award for excellence.

Bob Naughton of New Trier High School and Tom Powers of Evanston High are receiving the George Connor loyalty award. Connor is a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

St. Joseph High School basketball coach Gene Pingatore is being honored with the Johnny "Red" Kerr award for determination.

#### A TRIBUTE TO JERRY SACHARSKI OF ALBION, MI—THE INVENTOR OF TEE-BALL

##### HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2002

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise before you today to recognize one of my constituents, Jerry Sacharski, the inventor of Tee-ball. It is not everyday that a Congressman is given the opportunity to pay tribute to a man who has done so much to expand the appeal of America's Pastime of baseball to so many children. In 1956, Jerry Sacharski became aware of the difficulty children were having when attempting to use hand-eye coordination that was necessary for bringing the bat in contact with the ball when it was pitched. Because of this lack of coordination in younger children, for years baseball opportunities for children had consisted only of little league teams for children 11 and 12 years of age, and baseball leagues for children over 14. This was not acceptable to Jerry. Instead of simply perpetuating the lack of opportunities for younger children, Jerry acted and came up with a system that we all take for granted today. By using metal piping, pieces of rubber, and part of a garden hose he ingeniously created the first batting tee, thereby securing up to four extra years of fun and experience with baseball's fundamentals for interested children. After all, it can only be an advantage for children to be able to